

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY
OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method for resolving a web site address when connected with a virtual private network
5 (VPN) comprising the steps of:

receiving a domain name request from a public host;

resolving said domain name request at a domain name server (DNS) associated with said
VPN; and

returning an address location corresponding to said domain name request to said public
10 host.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein, prior to said step of resolving said domain name request,
said domain name request is forwarded to said DNS associated with said VPN.

3. A method of resolving a domain name request for a requesting host, said host connected
15 to a virtual private network (VPN) comprising:

intercepting a domain name request directed at an internet service provider (ISP) domain
name server (DNS) and redirecting said domain name request to a VPN DNS;

receiving a domain name response from said VPN DNS; and

20 returning said domain name response to said requesting host.

4. The method of Claim 3 further including the step of connecting said host to said domain
name resulting from said domain name request.

25 5. A method for resolving a web site address when connected with a virtual private network
(VPN) comprising the steps of:

intercepting a domain name request from a public host addressed to a pre-determined
domain name server (DNS);

forwarding said domain name request to a DNS associated with said VPN;

30 receiving a domain name response including an address location corresponding to
said domain name request; and

forwarding said domain name response to said public host.

6. The method of Claim 5 further comprising the step, occurring after said step of intercepting said domain name request, a step of modifying said domain name request.

5
7. The method of Claim 5 further comprising the step, occurring before said step of forwarding said domain name request, a step of modifying said domain name response.

8. Apparatus for resolving a web site address for a public host when connected with
10 a virtual private network (VPN) comprising:

a VPN domain name server (DNS) for resolving domain name requests; and
a software module for forwarding a domain name request to said VPN DNS and for
receiving a domain name response from said VPN DNS and for forwarding said response to said
public host.

15
9. The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein said domain names are related to private web
sites of public web sites.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein said software module modifies said domain name
20 request and said domain name response prior to forwarding said request and said response.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said software module is a driver.